

After the last page of the application, please add the following:

#### Abstract of the Disclosure

A communication system includes a control and/or drive network (11, 12) having network nodes (1, 2, 3, 4, 5), in which for operating industrial machines, control and/or regulating signals are exchanged between the network nodes via a closed ringlike signal line (6, 7). A first one of the network nodes one network node (2) exchanges signals with at least one further network node (1, 3) over a bidirectional signal path (10). At least one of said network nodes node (2) has a switchover unit (8), which can communicate with two further network nodes (1, 3) via two bidirectional signal paths (10). The switchover unit (8) connects the two signal paths (10) bidirectionally through the network node (2) and interrupts the communication between the two signal paths and connects two signal courses (9) of at least one bidirectional signal path (10) to one another.